**President:** The honourable member must finish within three minutes.

**Mr. P. G. Narayanan Unnithan:** There is no part of the world where absolute prohibition has been possible. In all places where it was tried, it was found to be a failure. If this is demoralisation no place in the world is free fr om that. From increase in revenue alone it cannot be said that it is due to demoralisation here.

**Mr. M. K. Velu Pillai:** We do not complain about the increase in revenue but only about the increase in the consumption of liquor.

**Mr. P. G. Narayanan Unnithan:** I have also the figures showing the increase in consumption in other places. In 1117, consumption stood at 21,000 gallons in the Cochin State and it later shot up to 40,000 gallons in 1118. I do not have their figures for this year. Increase in consumption means that people have been having illicit drinks. Though exclusion of illicit drinks has been possible now, there can be no guarantee that illicit drinks would be excluded if prohibition is introduced.

There was another point mentioned in talking about prohibition. It was said that propaganda was carried on by this Department. I may mention that the work of the Department is only to administer the existing Abkari Laws. That only relates to licensing control of drinks. This Department is only administering Excise laws. We were not trying to popularize drinks in any form. I can say that neither by precept nor by example have I been popularizing the habit of drinking. (Laughter). It was even suggested that I should be transferred because I was popularizing drinks. To my knowledge, my assistants also are not doing any propaganda. The work of the Department, as I have mentioned is only to carry out the Excise Laws which include control, and no propaganda has been done.....

**President:** Order, order. The time having expired, I will put the motion to vote.

The question that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 12,15,948 under Demand I—Excise Department, was put to vote and carried.

The Demand was passed and the grant was made.

## DEMAND II—ELECTRICITY AND TELEPHONE.

**Rajyasevapravina K. P. Padmanabha Menon:** Sir, I move for a grant of Rs. 59,53,915 under Demand II—Electricity and Telephone.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

**Mr. M. K. Mackar Pillai** (*Nominated*) : സർ, ഇലക്ട്രിസിറ്റികൊണ്ടു് നെൽക്കൃഷി വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കാൻ വളരെ സാധ്യതകം ഉണ്ടു് ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംക്കൂറിൽ മുന്നു നാലു കൊല്ലമായിട്ടു് ഇലക്ട്രിസിറ്റിയുടെ സഹായംകൊണ്ടു കൃഷി വളരെ അഭിവൃദ്ധിപ്പെട്ടന്നു. ഇപ്പോൾ ഒന്നു രണ്ടു കൊല്ലമായിട്ടു് ഇലക്ട്രിക്കൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു വലിയ മുതലാളിത്തം അനുഭവിച്ചുവരുന്നു. ആദ്യം ഇവിടെ ഏക്കറിനു് ര രൂപായ്ക്കു വെള്ളം പമ്പുചെയ്തു കൊടുക്കുമായിരുന്നു. അതു് ഇടക്കാലത്തു് ഒ രൂപാ ആക്കി. കഴിഞ്ഞകൊല്ലം പവ രൂപായ്ക്കു ഒരേക്കർ എന്നായി. എങ്കിലും ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ നെല്ലിന്റെ വിലകൊണ്ടു് ജനങ്ങൾ അതു കൊടുത്തുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ കൊല്ലം വന്നപ്പോൾ അതുക്രടാതെ പമ്പും ക്രടി ജനങ്ങൾ വാങ്ങിയാലേ വെള്ളം പമ്പിംഗ് ചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കുകയുള്ളു എന്നാണു് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകാർ പറയുന്നതു്. അവിടെ നൂറു് ഏക്കർ നൂറിരുപത്തു ഏക്കർ ഉള്ള ഏലായിൽ നൂറും, ഇരുനൂറും, മുന്നൂറും ഭ്രസ്വത്തുടമസ്ഥന്മാർ ഉണ്ടു്. നൂ സെൻറുഭൂമിയുള്ളവരും ഉണ്ടു്. ഇപ്പോൾ പമ്പിനും മറ്റും വില ക്രടിയിരിക്കുന്ന കാലത്തു് ജനങ്ങളെക്കൊണ്ടു പമ്പു് വാങ്ങിക്കാൻ സാദ്ധ്യമല്ല. അതുകൊണ്ടു ഇലക്ട്രിക്ക് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകാർ ജനങ്ങളുടെ ക്ഷേമത്തെ നോക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്നു അവിടുന്നു മനസ്സിലാക്കി ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ഉപകാരപ്രദമാകും വിധം പമ്പും മറ്റും ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽനിന്നും കൊടുത്തു് ന്യായമായ വിലയ്ക്കു കറൻറു് കൊടുക്കണം എന്നു് അഭ്യർത്ഥിച്ചുകൊണ്ടും അതു് അപ്രകാരം തന്നെ ചെയ്യുമെന്നു് പൂർണ്ണമായി വിശ്വസിച്ചുകൊണ്ടും ഞാൻ ഈ അഭ്യർത്ഥനയോടു് അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു.

**Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar :** Sir, I support the Demand. I congratulate the Head of the Department for the successful manner in which it is being conducted. I have much pleasure to say that had it not been for the successful manner in which he is discharging his duties, this Department would never have attained its present strength and status.

Sir, the future prosperity of the State depends much upon the development of the industry, and electrical power is highly necessary for it. That is the accepted position in the whole of India. During the last few years, a number of industries have been started here. For all these industries, fuel in large quantities is necessary and it is not possible to get coal or fuel in sufficient quantities. There is difficulty now in the whole of India for coal not only in the matter of supply, but also in the matter of purchase at a reasonable price. The whole world is experiencing the same difficulty. The only way to meet this difficulty is by the supply of electric power. It may not be an exaggeration if I say



LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar.]

that you are responsible for the inauguration of electricity in the whole of the Presidency of Madras if not in the whole of South India. You are also responsible for the initiation of this scheme in Travancore. Recently you were kind enough to approach the Madras Government and obtain the necessary power from Papanasam. I take this opportunity to thank you, Sir, for the splendid part you played in bringing the Periyar Lease dispute to a successful termination to our State. The proceedings before the Arbitrator were conducted in camera and the public were denied the opportunity of watching and understanding the splendid work you did in the same. Now the whole proceedings are published in a book form by the M. L. J. office at Madras. Fortunately for me very recently I happened to get a copy of that book from Madras. On going through the book one is surprised to find how thoroughly and intelligently you handled the intricate and difficult problems so efficiently and successfully as against the leading Advocate of India though you had left the legal profession years ago. We are greatly indebted to you for the work you have done and we cannot sufficiently thank you for the same. By the success in this the supposed lost rights of this Government over the Periyar Lease have been recovered and the possibility of producing enormous electric power for the successful industrialisation of this State has been established. I agree with Mr. Mackar Pillai in suggesting that whatever be the position of the Department, in the matter of production of foodstuffs, we should be allowed to pay not on a commercial but on a beneficial scale. The same favour which was bestowed to the particular branch should be continued till the food situation is revived.

With these few words, I support the demand.

**Mr. K. S. Joseph**: I oppose the grant. I find from the figures given in the administration report that more than half the electricity produced in this country has been given to a particular company and if my information is right, at a very low cost. I hear that it is, I speak subject to correction, half an anna a unit. If it is correct, I must raise my voice of protest, because we in Trivandrum who use electricity get it at a minimum rate of five annas per unit.

**Mr. G. Ravi Varma**: Does the honourable member know that a very large amount of electric power is consumed by the Company?

**Mr. K. S. Joseph**: May be. I think, it was understood that it is a very large quantity when I said it was *half*.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

I understand also from the figures that the amount of electricity used for agricultural purposes and small cottage industries is only very small, that is, about 450 K.Ws. or so. I do suggest that the rate of supply to consumers other than industralists be cut down to about the same rate as is given to the Company about which I made mention here.

**Mr. K. C. Chandy:** Sir, I support the demand and in doing so, I wish to bring to you and to the notice of the House the urgent necessity of developing our resources in Hydro-electric power. It is a fact that we need more and more electricity not only for agriculture but for industry and even for the improvement of our amenities. The country is blessed with many schemes for the development of Hydro-electric power. We have tackled one such scheme. There are other schemes available and they are worthy of investigation. I am making a particular reference to the Idikki Scheme. It is reported that a plateau covering an area of 40 sq. miles can be converted into a perennial and never-failing source of water supply.

**President:** That is being considered.

**Mr. K. C. Chandy:** Sir, this Scheme when developed will give ample energy for our various purposes. I submit that it may be taken up at the earliest possible opportunity so that in the post-war days we may have ample electric energy.

**Mr. K. G. Narayana Panicker:** Sir, I want to put in a word about a local need.

I also support the demand. I wish to point out that the supply of current to the Tiruvalla Municipality is too small. From the report it is seen that there are 195 street lights there. Our town requires more lights and I would submit that this complaint may be considered when more current can be supplied. The information, about the Papanasam Project in the Report, is now too meagre ; but we hope that Scheme also would be of great help to the State in getting power.

**Mr. M. Sulfan Muhiadheen:** ഈ ഡിമാൻറിനെ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നതോടുകൂടി ഒരു സംഗതി ഇലക്ട്രിക്കൽ എഞ്ചിനീയരുടെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരണമെന്ന് ഞാൻ ആശിക്കുന്നു. സർ, ഇവിടെനിന്നും ഏകദേശം ഫൈവ് മൈൽ ദൂരം മാത്രമേ നെയ്യാറിൻകരക്കുള്ളൂ. ഇലക്ട്രിസിറ്റി നെയ്യാറിൻകരവരെ നീട്ടണമെന്നുള്ള കാര്യം മുൻസിപ്പാലിറ്റിയുടെ വളരെ നാളത്തെ അപേക്ഷയുടെശേഷവും ഇന്നും ആലോചനയിൽ കിടക്കുന്നതല്ലാതെ ആയതിനു യാതൊരു നടപടികളും നടത്തിക്കാണുന്നില്ലാ. തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തുനിന്നും പാപ്പനംകോടുവരെ ഇലക്ട്രി

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. M. Sultan Muhiadheen.]

സിറ്റി ഇപ്പോൾ നീട്ടിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ അവിടെനിന്നും നെയ്യാറിൻകരവരെ നീട്ടിക്കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നതായാൽ വഴിമദ്ധ്യേ വ്യവസായകേന്ദ്രമായ ബാലരാമപുരത്തു സ്ഥാപിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള കൈത്തറി നെയ്ത്തുവ്യവസായം അഭിവൃദ്ധിപ്പെടുന്നതിനും പുറമെ പൊതുജനങ്ങൾക്ക്, മണ്ണെണ്ണയുടെ അഭാവംമൂലം ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള വിഷമങ്ങളെ പരിഹരിക്കാനും സാധിക്കുന്നതാണ്. ആയതിനാൽ, പൊതുജനാവശ്യത്തേയും, വ്യവസായത്തിന്റെ അഭിവൃദ്ധിയേയും മുൻനിറുത്തി, കഴിയുന്നതും വേഗത്തിൽ ഇലക്ട്രിസിറ്റി നെയ്യാറിൻകരവരെ വ്യാപിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള നടപടി തുടങ്ങണമെന്ന് അഭ്യർത്ഥിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

**Mr. K. A. Raman Pillai**: I only rise to impress upon the department and the Government the necessity of the expansion of the electric power to all municipal areas. My friend, Mr. Panicker was complaining about the Tiruvalla municipality. I am pleading for all municipalities. It is some years since the Electrical Department came into existence and it is only a very legitimate demand on my part to say that electric power should be extended to all the Municipal areas at the earliest possible opportunity. The exploitation of hydro-electric resources is included as one of the items in the programme of post-war reconstruction scheme and there is every possibility for the extension of electric power to all the municipalities at the earliest possible opportunity. Electric power should be made available to the agriculturists also. I would also advocate that power be supplied as cheaply as possible. In some municipalities, for example, the Neyyattinkara Municipality, which is so very near the Trivandrum City, it is high time that electric lights are supplied. In the whole of South Travancore, Nagercoil Municipality alone has electric lights. With the extension of electric power, all the municipal areas will be able to enjoy the amenities of modern life. For example, if they have a radio set, they will be in communion with the whole world; they can listen to President Roosevelt's speech at a short interval of the Broad cast. I therefore urge on the Government to extend the supply of electric power to all the Municipalities,

**Mr. G. Madhavan**: Sir, in supporting the demand for electricity, I would like to draw the attention of this Government to the fact that Shertallai Taluk, at least the town proper, has been neglected in the matter of electric supply. First, I would bring to the notice of the Government that the Trunk Telephone is not extended to Shertallai.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Sir, sufficient supply of current is not given to this Taluk to meet individual requirements. The extension of the scheme is not made to cover the town of Shertallai. It may be seen that this town is improving on the commercial side. It abounds in coir factories and oil mills. It may have come to the notice of the Government that there are four or five oil mills and more than ten or fifteen coir factories in Shertallai and it seems to be a business centre in the matter of coir next only to Alleppey. In these circumstances, it is only in the fitness of things that the Government bestow their attention to supply this place with electricity.

**Mr. T. M. Chithambarathanu Pillai**: Sir, I wish to offer a few words on the Demand. With the aid of electric power, there is every possibility of the various industries being developed on scientific lines. It is also possible to improve agriculture on scientific ways. It is indeed very gratifying to find that you, Sir, have been a pioneer in initiating the Papanasam scheme as early as 1926. I understand that an agreement has now come to link up the Papanasam Hydro-Electric Works with that of Kundara electric sub-station which in turn is connected with the Pallivasal Hydro-Electric Scheme. South Travancore is potentially strong in its resources of materials to develop certain industries. There is also the possibility of connecting Nagercoil with the Papanasam Hydro-Electric Scheme *via* Nanganassery in Tinnevelly District, which is only 23 miles from Nagercoil, from where power could be drawn for supplying Nagercoil. This is a scheme which is worth investigating by the Electricity Department as well as by Government.

**President**: I think the honourable members may be sure that, as a result of the conference which recently took place in Madras, the Madras Government and this Government have made up their minds, jointly to investigate the possibility of every available source of electric supply, and, in addition to the Pallivasal Scheme, the Periyar Cardamom Area is also being investigated by both the Governments. Both the Governments are committed to a scheme of co-operation by which all the available power will be supplied in as many localities as possible. Naturally therefore for the time being on account of the difficulty of obtaining materials and of placing orders for appliances we shall have to wait until the war is over to think of major developments. But there is no doubt that South Travancore will have a fairly high priority amongst the schemes under contemplation by this Government.

**Mr. T. M. Chithambarathanu Pillai**: Anyhow, Sir, we have a distant hope of the Pallivasal Hydro-Electric power being extended to Nagercoil.

**President**: It is more likely than any other source of supply.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

**Mr. Revi Varma Valia Raja :** സർ, ഭാവിയിൽ ഒരു വലിയ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറായി വികസിക്കാൻപോകുന്ന ഒന്നാണ് ഇലക്ട്രിക്കൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറ്. ജനങ്ങളുടെ ജീവസന്ധാരണത്തിനുപോലും അത്യാവശ്യമായി വന്നേക്കുമോ എന്നു സംശയിക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണം ഗൗരവത്തോട്ടുകൂടിയ ഒരു പ്രസ്ഥാനമാണ് ഇത്. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ ഇതിൻെറ വിപുലീകരണത്തിനായി ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ള ശ്രമങ്ങളെല്ലാംതന്നെ ശ്ലാഘനീയവും, അഭിനന്ദനാർഹവുമാണ്. എന്നാൽ വടക്കൻ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു പറയുകയാണെങ്കിൽ, കൃഷിസംബന്ധിച്ചു കാര്യങ്ങളിൽ അല്പാല്പം ഉപയോഗം ഇതുകൊണ്ടു ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നല്ലാതെ, അതുകൊണ്ടുള്ള പരിപൂർണ്ണഫലം ഇനിയും സിദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. വിശേഷിച്ചു് ഇലക്ട്രിസിറ്റിയുടെ കാര്യത്തിൽ വൈയ്ക്കം താലൂക്കു് ഉപേക്ഷിക്കപ്പെട്ടതായി കാണുന്നതു് വളരെ സങ്കടമാണ്. കച്ചവടകേന്ദ്രങ്ങളിൽ പ്രാധാന്യം അർഹിക്കുന്ന ആലപ്പുഴക്കും എറണാകുളത്തിനും മദ്ധ്യേ സ്ഥിതിചെയ്യുന്ന ഈ വൈയ്ക്കം താലൂക്കിൽ മാത്രം ഇലക്ട്രിസിറ്റി കൃഷിസംബന്ധമായോ, അല്ലെങ്കിൽ മറുതരത്തിലുള്ള പൊതുജനാവശ്യങ്ങൾക്കോ ഉപകരിക്കാതെ വന്നിരിക്കുന്നതു് വളരെ പരിതാപകരമായ ഒരു കാര്യമാണ്. അതിനാൽ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവൺമെൻറും, ഇലക്ട്രിക്കൽ ഇഞ്ചിനീയരവർകളും ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ വേണ്ടത്ര ശ്രദ്ധപതിപ്പിക്കണമെന്നു് അഭ്യർത്ഥിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

**Mr. N. Narayana Kurup :** Sir, while supporting this demand, I wish to make some demand on the department just to know whether the departmental head will be fair to me in return.

**Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar :** Sir, on a point of order. The honourable member was speaking in Malayalam for the past two days and now he is making a speech in English. Is that in order ?

**President :** The honourable members are entitled to speak in any language they choose. Moreover, bilingualism is allowed. But, in so far as the honourable member has begun in English, for the present he would continue to speak in that language.

**Mr. N. Narayana Kurup :** Sir, my first demand is that the supply of electric power should be extended to all parts of the State, as far as possible. But if there is any difficulty in getting electrical machinery, as the department has always been complaining, the question of general supply throughout the State may be postponed. At the same time, as regards minor demands as instanced by me for the extension of supply from Tiruvalla to Thalavadi, a length of 6 miles or so, I think there may be sufficient

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

materials for attending to that item of work. That is a most important item of work from our point of view though the head of the department may view otherwise. He will say that there are more pressing items of work to be taken up by the department. From the peoples point of view, this is a more urgent work to be taken up. Therefore, my first demand is to extend the supply from Tiruvalla to Thalavadi whereby about 2,000 acres of paddy fields could be drained and many houses may be given lighting facilities. Under present conditions when we are not able to get sufficient number of engines for draining water from paddy fields, extension of power to the place referred to will be of great use. Secondly, Sir, as my honourable friend Mr. Madhavan submitted, our constituency extends from Neendakara to Aroor a distance of about 82 miles, which is almost half the length of Travancore State and we are afraid whether we will be able to satisfy our constituencies in the matter of redressing local needs for such a long distance as 82 miles. At any rate, we are bound to discharge our duty by our joint representations. Therefore, I would request that electric supply may be extended to Shertallai as well. Thirdly, Sir, the agriculturists may be given electric supply for cultivation purposes on concession as is being given to big industrialists. Honourable member Mr. Mackar Pillai was saying that supply of power for lift irrigation purposes has been raised to Rs. 28 per acre. My submission is.....

**President :** I think the honourable members might bear in mind one matter. As a matter of demonstration, the Government first introduced this system. Until then, nobody was utilising electricity for lift irrigation. The Government directed that the scheme being purely demonstration work, only a nominal scale of charge should be levied. That was how it started. Whether the particular rate which is now claimed is right or wrong, the head of the department will explain. As I said, the policy of Government was, to start with, to charge only very nominal rates, irrespective of profit or loss, in order to popularise that system.

**Mr. N. Narayana Kurup :** Sir, anyway, I would request Government that in the matter of supplying power for agricultural purposes, Government must show some concession as is being done in the case of big companies. Some concession is shown to the big industrialists who take large units of power.

I wish to make some observations about the departmental administration. In important towns such as Alleppey, I have experienced the failure or breach of supply to the consumers very often. I may even say and it is a fact that in an hour, on a particular occassion, the supply has failed half a dozen times in the Alleppey town on several lines.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

**President:** When was that?

**Mr. N. Narayana Kurup:** About a month ago. The supply failed for five minutes on one occasion, then there was light; again it failed, for a few minutes and so on. It was almost a recurring feature on that day. Such interruptions are common occurrences in house connections there.

**Rajyasevapravina K. P. Padmanabha Menon:** But I am not aware of any such report, though I get weekly reports about the supply.

**President:** If the supply has failed as is mentioned, then it is a serious affair. The honourable member may not be aware of the seriousness of the matter. If there is such an interruption of current, we shall have to pay very heavy damages for the big industrial users. Whenever such an interruption takes place, the matter has to be very carefully investigated. But I was not made aware of any such thing till now. As a matter of fact even if there was interruption for a second, we shall have to pay damages on a big scale. That is the rule. Whatever other faults the department may have, it has to supply electricity to the big undertakings. Excepting for one or two flickers which are caused for a particular purpose, the department has to supply power for all the 24 hours and therefore, if the honourable members come across such interruptions, they will kindly bring it to the notice of Government. The departmental head will make a note of this matter.

**Mr. N. Narayana Kurup:** Sir, I am not responsible for the nonreporting of the matter by the subordinates of the departments. Sir, I have experienced it at supper times, reading times, and so on. This is how the administration is carried on in Alleppey.

**President:** I am glad that the matter has been brought to my notice. It will be carefully investigated.

**Mr. N. Narayana Kurup:** That being so, I would request Government to take particular attention in the matter of electric supply to the firms at least so that no damage is caused to Government on that score. It may be that the ordinary consumers may not be courageous enough to file a suit against Government for damage.

**President:** But no such suit lies. The case of firms is entirely different. There is a contract which the Government have entered into with the big firms. We have made ourselves responsible for supplying the necessary power to big companies. If there is an interruption of power, some of the processes such as the metallurgical one will suffer a great deal. I do not think an ordinary consumer can claim such a thing.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

**Mr. N. Narayana Kurup**: But then, I will make an experimental suit. (*Laughter.*)

Now, it is very gratifying to find that the supply has come as far as Monkompu, the native place of the ex-Chief Secretary. Then if the supply is further extended to a distance of 12 more miles to another place, which again is a place of another ex-Chief Secretary, the place being Muttam, it would be a useful scheme for the people and places between those places. As for electric supply to the latter place, there is the possibility of taking it from Mavelikara line. It will benefit the paddy fields in Kuttanad and Karthikapally punja about 50,000 acres in all.

**Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar**: May I know who that the ex-Chief Secretary is? Sir, reference was made about two ex-Chief Secretaries. I want to know who the second ex-Chief Secretary referred to is?

**Mr. N. Narayana Kurup**: If the honourable member who has been in the Council for the past 8 years could not know about the person referred to, I am sorry I cannot enlighten him.

**Mr. K. A. Raman Pillai**: But I do not know who the person is. Will the honourable member enlighten me?

**Mr. N. Narayana Kurup**: But my honourable friend did not put me the question first.

Therefore, I once again invite the attention of the department to extend the supply to Thalavadi and to connect the Monkompu line to Mavelikara-power-station, so that a large area of fields in between may get supply of power for cultivation purposes. With these remarks I support the demand.

The House adjourned for lunch at 2 P. M. and reassembled at 3 P. M. with the Dewan-President in the Chair.

## NEW MEMBER.

The following member took the oath and signed the rolls:

Mr. C. Kumara Das (*Secretary to Government.*)

**Rajyasevapravina K. P. Padmanabha Menon**: Sir, I would confine my remarks to three major items which have been the subject of discussion on the floor of this House. The first relates to the charges levied for the supply of energy for irrigation purposes. A reference to page 7 of the administration report for 1118 would show that the rate for agricultural purposes was reduced from what it was originally one anna to ·75 of an anna with effect from 1118. This is decidedly lower than the charges levied for industries consuming similar amount of energy. The reason why a special concession was shown for agricultural purposes was to



LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Rajyasevapravina K. P. Padmanabha Menon.]

enable even the owner of small holding to avail of electric power for either irrigating his land for raising a second crop or for dewatering. And experience has shown that electrical pumping now is at least 50 to 60 per cent. cheaper than pumping by any other power.

Reference was made by one honourable member to the rate of 4 to 5 rupees that was levied by the department in the earlier stages of lift irrigation which has now been increased to Rs. 28. A word of explanation is necesssary for this difference in rates. As explained by you, Sir, the rate of four to five rupees was levied purely for the purpose of demonstration with a view to induce the cultivators to carry out a second cultivation and see whether it will be a profitable proposition to utilise electric power for such agricultural operations. Having found that it was worth their while to utilise power to raise a second crop by pumping, the department fixed a rate for the supply of energy to a level which would leave a reasonable margin of profit to the cultivator. After all this department is not an irrigation department and its function is only to supply energy. What the department is expected to do is to offer facilities for the use of electric power by agriculturists just as it does to the industries. The Rs. 28 per acre mentioned by the honourable member includes certain capital charges, such as the cost of the pumping sets which have been issued by the department to the cultivator on either a hire or a hire purchase basis. It should be the aim of the cultivator to take advantage of the rules framed for the hire purchase system, and purchase these pumping sets so that he may use them later. When once this capital is invested by him, the only expenditure that can be debited to cultivation will be the interest and the depreciation charges. These pumping sets will give a reasonable service for 20 to 25 years so that such overhead charges on pumping will only be a fraction of the total expenditure. In spite of these charges, the result of the cultivation carried out last year by means of lift irrigation, has shown that in majority of the cases the cultivators were able to make a clean profit of Rs. 60 to 70 per acre on a second crop and there is no reason why with the application of fertilisers the same percentage of profits should not be maintained, even when prices come down to pre-war level.

Another honourable member referred to the fact that the bulk of the supply now generated at Pallivasal has been ear-marked for one industry which gets its energy at a considerably reduced rate. A word of explanation seems necessary. The tariffs for supply of energy are calculated based on two considerations. One is what the industry can afford to pay and the other is what should be a reasonable return on the investment of the electric supply undertaking.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

On these bases, an industry which consumes a very large block of power, which absorbs a very large percentage of the capital investment because it utilises energy all the 24 hours of the day and all the 365 days of the year stands on a different category from a house-owner who consumes a very small quantity of energy for probably 3 to 3½ hours a day. In such cases the energy is not used during the remaining 21 hours of the day and therefore the capital charges on that particular extension of supply remains unremunerative for nearly 21 hours out of the 24. Therefore the rates of supply to such a consumer would naturally be much higher than the rates to industries which take the supply all the 24 hours of the day and all the 365 days of the year. And moreover a bulk consumer necessarily implies that the expenditure for supply to that industry is comparatively smaller than in the case of the small consumer. This particular industry takes 4,600 K. W. and the capital expenditure to supply this energy to this industry is only about one-half to two-fifths of the expenditure required for the supply of the same energy if distributed over a large number of consumers scattered over the different parts of the state. It should also be remembered that if such large industries are to thrive in this State, specially attractive rates are certainly necessary and Government have naturally to look to indirect benefits from these industries as the compensating factor. By that, it does not imply that the supply of energy to such consumers need not bring in a direct return to Government. In this particular case, every consideration was given before deciding upon this rate to see that the revenue derived from this industry would pay an adequate return on the investment and the establishment of this industry will be beneficial to the State. Such key industries, when once established, will be the means of bringing into existence a large number of subsidiary industries which naturally means more employment, more income-tax revenue and more income to the State by the sale of power at comparatively higher rates.

**Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar** : Is that not the policy followed elsewhere also ?

**Rajyasevapravina K. P. Padmanabha Menon** : That is the case with all the electric supply undertakings. We have to decide on rates which the industry can afford to pay and we have to look forward to the indirect results from the working of that industry in contributing to the income-tax revenue, employment or in the possibilities of subsidiary industries.

**Mr. M. Mahomed Mustafa** : Sir.

கொல்லத்தில் உள்ள ஒரு Factory க்கு Current சப்ளை செய்வதில் இருக்கிறதில், அங்கே உள்ள 4000, 5000 கூலிகளுக்கும் பாதிக்கப்படாமல் வேலை இருக்கின்றது மெம்பருக்குத் தெரியுமா?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

**Rajyasevapravina K. P. Padmanabha Menon:** I have no information. I will finish my statement first and then I will answer the honourable member's query.

Reference was made to the necessity for the supply of power to all the Municipalities in the State. As a matter of fact, there are only six Municipal towns which have not been supplied with electric power. Vaikom is one, Attingal in Central Travancore is another and there are four Municipalities in the South. This is because the extension of the Pallivasal scheme to the south has been held up owing to certain difficulties in getting materials. As a result of the recent discussions with the Electricity Commissioner with the Government of India, we have been assured of a very early release of materials with which we may extend the line from Kundara to Trivandrum. It will then be possible to supply a large area in South Travancore. In the meanwhile the line from Papanasam to Kundara is expected to be completed within nine months and this will bring in a supply of 4,000 K. W. which will be just sufficient to meet our immediate requirements. The reason why the connection from Papanasam to Kundara was taken up in preference to the one from Tinnevely to Nagercoil was because the latter route was larger and involves the construction of a more expensive line. With regard to the development of our other Hydro-electric resources in the State, the department has included in its post-war programme three major schemes which will be taken up for investigation immediately and the question of the order in which they will be taken up for execution will be considered in the light of the results of the investigation. Idikki is one of Schemes included in the post-war programme.

The frequent interruption of supply at Alleppey was referred to by one honourable member. I would invite his attention to Page 31 of the Administration Report giving details of the failure of supply during 1118. But the instance which the honourable member referred to viz. the continued interruptions during the course of his dinner has not come to my notice. During lunch-interval I have been able to check similar statistics of interruptions during the year 1119 and I find that operating conditions during the last year were decidedly better than those of the previous year. As I said already the case referred to by the honourable member has not come to my notice, but I will make enquiries. Interruptions are generally due to any of these following causes, faulty design, fault maintenance or faulty operation, lighting surges, trees falling or bird troubles. An analysis of the interruptions during 1118 as recorded on page 31 would show that the majority of the interruptions were caused by lightning. The total duration of the interruptions during that year was 58½ minutes covering the whole of the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

State, and of these 58½ minutes, interruptions covering a period of 30 minutes was due to lightning. I may inform the House that we are absolutely helpless against lightning. We have done our best to protect the system with the knowledge that we have, but the direct stroke of lightning is a contingency which we cannot guard against. Cases have happened where bamboos in the forests have been carried by the wind and deposited on the lines. But compared with similar system in other parts of India, our operating conditions are extremely satisfactory. It is quite possible that in a system covering over 600 miles of lines breakdown at one or two places now and then due to local causes is inevitable and it is not possible to give a guarantee that such failures will not happen. All interruptions that take place in the system are properly analysed in my office and the causes are traced and prompt action is taken to prevent their happening again.

With regard to the extension of lines to rural areas, as I explained in another place, we are absolutely helpless at present because we are short of power and also materials. At present all the energy available from Pallivasal is fully utilised and until we get the Papanasam supply we are not able to connect up any industrial load.

With regard to extension of supply to other rural areas, the policy followed by the Department so far was to take the energy available mainly for Agricultural or Industrial purposes. House lighting, as such, was only of subsidary importance although the Department realises that it is a very useful amenity in civic life. Every arrangement is being made to get materials as soon as the war is over and it is hoped that within two years about 40 to 50 rural centres will be connected up and by that time our power position will be definitely improved.

**Mr. K. C. Chandy:** May I know if the rate that is now charged for particular industries is lower than the rate that we pay for the Papanasam power?

**Rajyasevapravina K. P. Padmanabha Menon:** The rate at which we are getting power from Papanasam will be slightly higher than at which power goes from our own system. The power that we are getting from Papanasam is decidedly cheaper than what many of the industries in Travancore are now paying. In other words the bulk supply from Papanasam will cost us about 20 per cent. less than the charges that we realise from most of the industrial consumers in the State now.

**President:** Before putting this grant to vote, I think it is my duty to deal with certain aspects which have to be cleared, in view of the doubts expressed about the policy of Government. Let

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[President.]

me take this opportunity to indicate the policy of Government as to Hydro-Electric enterprises generally. This Government are anxious to introduce Hydro-Electric energy from whatever sources available, firstly, for the purpose of improvement of agriculture and, as an ancillary to it, for the inauguration of the manufacture of Fertilisers and Chemicals; secondly, the object of Government is to get as much industrial load as possible which will operate during the 24 hours of the day. As has been explained by the Electrical Engineer there is really no comparison between the use and the expediency of certain centres of production utilising power for 24 hours in the day and other consumers like house-owners or municipalities who use power during the hours 7 or 8 P. M. to 12 midnight at the most in regard to light and fan, when fans are used. It is for this reason that all Governments throughout the world have made it a condition precedent for the introduction of Hydro-Electric enterprises that they should get an initial industrial market. Honourable members of this House may realise that it was for want of such an industrial market that the Papanasam supply was not started when I investigated it in 1926. It was in that year, as recently pointed out during the inauguration of the Papanasam Project that I made up my mind to start Hydro-Electric Supply to Madras Presidency, first from Papanasam. It was necessary to get a proper industrial load so that with that as the background and as the inevitable element of financial stability, I could then extend the Hydro-Electric power to Tinnevelly, Madura and Ramanad Districts. At that time negotiations were set a foot with the very well known firm of Messrs. Harvy and Co., Madura. They had yarn mills at Papanasam, Ambasamudram and Madura. But they had then contracted for and obtained a Thermal plant and had spent a great deal of money on the Thermal plant. Therefore they said they could not take Hydro-Electric power from the Madras Government. The result of it was that the Papanasam Scheme had to be suspended. Thereupon the present Pykara Scheme was started. The Pykara Scheme would not have been started but for the fact that it was possible for the Madras Government at that time to persuade planters in Nilgiri and Coimbatore areas to agree to take a minimum amount of power at a certain rate. It was only after that agreement was entered into that it was possible to start the Pykara Scheme. Similarly in regard to the Mettur Scheme, the Tanjore people would not come forward to take up power. Therefore when the question of extending the Hydro-Electric Project in Travancore was taken up, one had to find out a large enough consumption. For that purpose, I do not mind admitting freely, that

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

I approached one industry after another in order to get that background of heavy consumption. It is very well known that the Aluminium Company is one of the foremost branches of a Canadian enterprise which is operating on a large scale in the United States and Canada. That Company had made tentative arrangements for starting the Aluminium Industry in Mysore. The question was whether that Aluminium Company, which is now consuming 4,600 K. W., and in the course of the next 5 or 6 years will probably take 13,000 K. W., should be established here or at Mysore. We were successful in entering into an arrangement with the Aluminium Company to establish themselves here. The reason why certain concessions were given to the Aluminium Company was that in the opinion of Government the starting of an Aluminium Factory in Travancore would be to start an industry which during the War would be one of the most fundamental elements in the fighting at present and especially in the coming months, and would make Travancore equal to Tata Nagar in the course of a few years. Further subsidiary industries, such as the production of duraluminium, that is one of the inventions of this War, and the production of various alloys which are of the utmost importance in the metallurgical industries of the world—these considerations made it profitable for the Government—not for the sake of the power which the Company is now taking, but for the purpose of increased consumption of power which it would necessarily embark upon. Also the presence of the Aluminium industry would give scope for the starting of subsidiary industries, round about the place, which would be indigenous in character and spread all over Travancore. It was these grounds that made this Government enter into agreements for the supply of cheap power to the Aluminium Company. When I use the expression "cheap power", the question of interest on capital, profits from the concern, etc., have also been taken into consideration. We are not philanthrophists but we are selling electricity to this Company at rates cheaper than to honourable members of this House or the Municipalities for the simple reason that honourable members of this House would consume electricity only for three or four hours of the day while the Aluminium Company would use it for all the 24 hours. Similarly in the case of the Glass Factory and other bigger factories which we are going to introduce, there would be the same concession given.

The main policy of Government is thus to encourage the introduction of large consumers here in order that we may be assured of a market for the power. Otherwise we cannot embark upon schemes which are on the tapis. We have spent about 1 3/4 crores on Hydro-Electric schemes now. We are negotiating with the Madras

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[President.]

Government for what is called the grid system—a kind of comprehensive Hydro-Electric Production and distribution throughout the South of India. In other words the idea is that in pursuance of the industrial unity of India—I am not speaking of political unity—it will not be necessary for Madras, Coorg, Mysore, Travancore or Cochin separately to produce and distribute electricity. It will be necessary for them to pool their resources together and bring into operation a Hydro-electric system which will supply to Travancore whenever Travancore is in deficit and Travancore will supply to other parts whenever they are in deficit. On those lines negotiations have been conducted and have been fairly successful; I do not say entirely successful—with the Madras Government, the Cochin Government and the Mysore Government. So that Mettur, Pykara, Papanasam, Pallivasal, Periyar—Cardamom Area Scheme and the Idikki Scheme may be worked together and may be useful to the industries of the various localities and may be distributed in the best manner. It is on this basis that the power is produced and distributed. Honourable members will see that it is not for the purpose of encouraging a particular firm of Canadian or American origin that this was done. It was done for the purpose of getting a block power. I may add that this Company, which is a Canadian Company was informed by this Government that this Government will have a substantial financial interest in the Company and a definite voice in the policy of the company. I may also add that this Government will be a very big partner in that concern.

The question that a sum of Rs. 59,53,915 be granted under Demand II—Electricity and Telephone was put and carried.

The grant was made.

## DEMAND III—PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT INCLUDING WATER WORKS AND DRAINAGE.

**Mr. I. C. Chacko:** Sir, I beg to move for a grant of Rs. 84,40,555 under Demand III—Public Works Department including Water Works and Drainage.

**Mr. P. Gopalan:** സർ, ഞാൻ ഈ അഭ്യർത്ഥനയെ എതിർക്കുന്നു. ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വളരെ അത്യാവശ്യമുള്ള ജോലികൾക്കുപോലും അനുവദിച്ചുതായ തുകകൾ, ആ ജോലികൾ കാലാകാലങ്ങളിൽ ചെയ്യാഞ്ഞതു നിമിത്തം ലാപ്സാക്കുന്ന ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിന്റെ നയം ഒരുതരത്തിലും അനുകരണീയമല്ല. അതിനു ചില കാരണങ്ങൾ പലപ്പോഴും ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറ് അദ്ധ്യക്ഷൻ പറയാറുണ്ട്. റോഡുകൾ തീർക്കുന്നതിനു ലാൻറ് റവന്യൂ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽനിന്നും സ്ഥലം പൊന്നുംവിലയ്ക്കു എടുക്കുന്നതിനു

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly